

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT and  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
U.S. Appl'n Serial No. 09/965,886

REMARKS

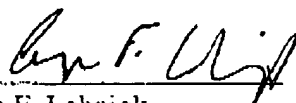
Claim 26 is amended and new claims 28-31 are added. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested. No new matter is being added by the amendments presented.

The Office Action dated August 5, 2003, states that more than one independent and distinct invention is being claimed in the present application. Therefore, the Examiner is requiring, under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.142, that the present application be restricted to one of the inventions. Specifically, the Examiner has grouped the claims into Group I consisting of claims 1-23 and Group II consisting of claims 24-27.

In response to the Office Action dated August 5, 2003, Applicant elects Group I, corresponding to claims 1-23. This election is made without traverse. New added claims 28-31 are dependent from claims in the elected group and thus should be included in the elected Group I for examination.

Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application directed to non-elected claims 24-27, if necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: December 5, 2003